

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims pending in the instant application are numbered 1-23. Claims 1, 2, 5 and 22 presently stand rejected. Claims 3, 4, 6 and 23 presently stand objected to. The Applicants note with appreciation that claims 7-21 are presently allowed. Claims 3, 4 and 23 have been canceled without prejudice and claims 1 and 22 have been amended in an earnest effort to expedite a timely allowance of the instant application. The Applicants respectfully request that the amendments be entered and that the instant application be reconsidered in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. 103 Rejection

In the July 12, 2005 Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mawhinney et al., US Patent No. 6,038,219 (hereinafter Mawheinney) in view of Cern, US Patent No. 5,815,298 (hereinafter Cern).

In the July 12, 2005 Office Action, claims 3, 4, 6 and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as being conditionally allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In order to expedite a timely allowance, the Applicants have amended claim 1 to embody the limitations included in conditionally allowed claims 3 and 4. In addition, the Applicants have amended claim 22 to embody the limitations included in conditionally allowed claim 23. The Applicants understand independent claims 1 and 22 should now be allowable as amended in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in the Office Action of July 12, 2005. The Applicants further understand that the remaining dependent claims 2, 5 and 6, all of which depend on independent claim 1, should be allowable if independent claim 1 is deemed allowable. The Applicants therefore respectfully

request reconsideration and allowance of the present application as amended.

If there is a deficiency in fees, please charge our Deposit Acct. No. 02-2666.

The Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 9-28-05

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Attachments

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